



National Coalition on Youth Sport Concussion

TAKING ACTION STATE BY STATE

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. S

DATE 2/1/13

ROLL NO. SB112

January 30, 2013

Dear Montana State Representative:

It's Montana's turn to do what more than two-thirds of U.S. states have done—namely, to enact an effective law dealing with concussion in youth sports. SB 112 would help student-athletes enjoy sports safely and prevent the devastating effects of sports-related concussions. We urge you to pass it now.

Without awareness of the dangers and symptoms of concussion and the need to properly manage recovery, youth athletes and those who work with them can unwittingly endanger not only these youngsters' playing careers, but their academic careers and family lives as well.

Based on the Zackery Lystedt Law enacted in Washington State in 2009, SB 112 includes three main provisions:

1. Education of youth athletes, coaches and parents about the significance and symptoms of suspected brain injuries and their consequences, using readily available materials;
2. Removal from play or practice if a youth athlete is suspected of having sustained concussion or head injury, and
3. Return to play or practice only after appropriate medical clearance.

Experience has shown that establishing and following these prudent, best practices not only will help save youth athletes and their families from needless tragedy and life-altering injury. Experts know that Lystedt-type laws also reduce liability for organizations that sponsor youth sports events and for their staff, officials and volunteers.

More than forty U.S. states have passed similar laws, and we believe it's time that Montana take action on behalf of the millions of youngsters who need this protection. The cost in terms of dollars and administrative burden is minimal, but the impact – measured in keeping youth athletes safe, learning and well – is huge.

Thank you for considering this important measure on behalf of our young patients and their families, schools and organizations.

Sincerely,

James R. Whitehead, CEO
American College of Sports Medicine

(On behalf of the 35 member organizations of the National Coalition on Youth Sport Concussion)

American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American College of Sports Medicine
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
Brain Injury Association of Washington
Child Neurology Foundation
Children's National Medical Center
Kevin Turner Foundation
Major League Soccer
National Academy of Neuropsychology
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Collegiate Athletic Association
National Hockey League
National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute
North American Society for Pediatric Exercise Medicine
Pop Warner Little Scholars-Pop Warner Football
Psychological Assessment Resources
Safe Kids USA
Sanford Health
Sarah Jane Brain Foundation
Sports Concussion Institute
Sports Legacy Institute
Sportsconcussions.org
TBI Phoenix-Fund
ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
US Lacrosse
US Soccer Federation
US Youth Soccer
USA Football
Washington Youth Soccer
Youth Fitness Coalition